

the Rocky Boy's Reservation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-200).

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 1792. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue code of 1986 to extend expiring provisions, to fully allow the nonrefundable personal credits against regular tax liability, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-201).

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself and Mr. KERRY):

S. 1785. A bill to provide for local family information centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 1786. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a grant program for assisting small business and agricultural enterprises in meeting disaster-related expenses; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. 1787. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to improve water quality on abandoned or inactive mined land; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ROTH:

S. 1788. An original bill to amend titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act to make corrections and refinements in the medicare, medicaid, and SCHIP programs, as revised and added by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. GORTON (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1789. A bill to provide a rotating schedule for regional selection of delegates to a national Presidential nominating convention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1790. A bill to provide for the issuance of a promotion, research, and information order applicable to certain handlers of Hass avocados; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1791. A bill to authorize the Librarian of Congress to purchase papers of Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior, from Dr. King's estate; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. ROTH:

S. 1792. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend expiring provisions, to fully allow the nonrefundable personal credits against regular tax liability, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. DOMENICI:

S. 1793. A bill to ensure that there will be adequate funding for the decommissioning of nuclear power facilities; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1794. A bill to designate the Federal courthouse at 145 East Simpson Avenue in Jackson, Wyoming, as the "Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRAPO:

S. 1795. A bill to require that before issuing an order, the President shall cite the authority for the order, conduct a cost benefit analysis, provide for public comment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. MACK, Mr. KYL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ROBB, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. HELMS, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. CLELAND, and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 1796. A bill to modify the enforcement of certain anti-terrorism judgements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1797. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, to provide for a land conveyance to the City of Craig, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself and Mr. KERRY):

S. 1785. A bill to provide for local family information centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

### LOCAL FAMILY EDUCATION INFORMATION CENTERS

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I speak on behalf of myself and Senator KERRY from Massachusetts, today for myself and Senator KERRY of Massachusetts today to introduce legislation that will go a long way to help parents become more involved in their children's education. We all know that families are crucial to the improvement of our nation's schools. To ensure that schools and students meet challenging educational goals, families must be involved. Parents must insist that their children get the best education. They must understand, shape and support the reforms in their schools; and, they must work with schools to help all children meet their goals.

We know that when families are fully engaged in the educational process, students have: higher grades and test scores; better attendance and more homework done; fewer placements in special education; more positive attitudes and behavior; higher graduation rates; and, greater enrollment in post-secondary education.

For school reforms to help all children, we must move to ensure that all parents are involved in their children's education. For many parents, this is not an easy task. Parents, particularly those who have limited English proficiency, or those who have a troubled history with the school system, often need outside help to get the information, support, and training they need to help their children navigate the school system.

Current provisions in Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education

Act provide for excellent and important ways for parents to get involved in their children's education. However, in some cases, parent involvement of the type envisioned by Title I remains a distant goal. Many Title I schools (though not all) have failed to fully bring parents into the development of parent involvement policies, school-parent compacts, and into planning and improvement for the school as provided for in Title I. It is thus essential for families to have an independent source of information and support that they understand and trust so that they can participate in an informed and effective manner and help move the schools toward the goal of full parental participation.

To achieve this critical end, this legislation would provide competitive grants to community based organizations to establish Local Family Information Centers. These centers, made up of community members as well as professionals from the Title I schools in the area, should have a track record of effective outreach and work with low income communities. They, in consultation with the school district, would develop a plan to provide parents with the full support that they need to be partners in their children's education. For example, they would help parents understand standards, assessments, and accountability systems; support activities that are likely to improve student achievement in Title I schools; understand and analyze data that schools, districts, and states must provide under reporting requirements of ESEA and other laws; understand and participate in the implementation of parent involvement requirements of ESEA, including; and, communicate effectively with school personnel.

This legislation is essential because it would reach and assist parents most isolated from participation by poverty, race, limited English proficiency and other factors. It is essential because of what we know about how children learn—that children that are the farthest behind make the greatest gains when their parents are part of their school life.

Many schools do a very good job of involving parents in education reform. This bill does nothing but ensure that parents have the option of an independent voice in districts where schools do not do such a good job. If we are to educate our children, we must also educate their parents. This legislation provides one necessary means to do so.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 1786. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a grant program for assisting small business and agricultural enterprises in meeting disaster-related expenses; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.